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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service

STATEMENT RELATIVE TO THE SCREW-WORM PROBLEM IN THE
SOUTHEASTERN STATES

A careful review of the report of the survey team dispatched by the Department to make a study of the screw-worm problem in Florida and subsequent discussions has led to certain conclusions:

1. The Department is prepared to cooperate with the State of Florida in the production of 1 to 2 million sterile screw-worm flies a week for a period of 4 to 6 months.
2. Flies produced will be released over a limited area so as provide additional information needed to perfect equipment and methods for fly dispersion and the determination of the effectiveness of fly-dispersing programs. It is believed that this release of flies over a restricted area will result in some reduction of the losses encountered due to the infestations of this pest.
3. Due to budgetary limitations, the Department is not in a position to request an appropriation for carrying out an eradication program, which it is estimated would cost a total of 9 to 10 million dollars. In the event any such program is inaugurated, it should provide for a sharing of the costs between the affected States and the Federal Government.
4. The Department's screw-worm research program will be continued.

It should also be clearly understood:

1. That the sterile fly production and release referred to in 1 above, is not the beginning of an eradication program. However, this will provide additional training and experience in the development of control and eradication procedures and limited fly control.
2. Agreements would have to be reached with State officials of the Southeastern States before an eradication program could be considered. Effective prevention of the re-establishment of infestation in the Southeastern States would require the active cooperation of all these States.
3. Approximately six months to one year would be required for the construction of large-scale fly-rearing facilities (to produce approximately 50 million flies weekly) which would be needed for the eradication program. Therefore, it would be approximately a year from the time that the construction of such facilities is begun before a full-scale eradication program could be undertaken.

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